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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BULGARIANS PAINT FAVORABLE IMAGE OF WARTIME FASCISM

Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 14 Dec 76 p 5

[Article by Filip Simonovski, NOVA MAKEDONIJA permanent correspondent:
"Bulgarian Historical Mangles; The Good Image of Bulgarian Fascism"]

[Text] Sofia, December.

Monarchofascist Bulgaria "postponed joining the Tripartite Pact as long as it could." However, even when this became a fact and the country became involved in the war, Bulgarian fascism "acted fearfully and avoided direct participation in military actions in the Balkans."

Thus reads one of the key statements found in the latest book by Sofia historian Ilcho Dimitrov, "The Bulgarian Democratic Public, Fascism, and the War," which recently appeared in the local bookstores. According to the author Bulgaria's involvement in the Tripartite Pact "was the result of unquestionable coercion." It took place when the "Hitlerite forces had already concentrated along the Danube while the state was faced with Hamlet's choice of either allowing the forces to cross Bulgarian territory freely or let them hurl themselves by force." This was how the "complete linking of Bulgaria's fate with that of the Third Reich" was accomplished. Incidentally, the author adds that "this ever closer rapprochement with Germany" did not prevent Bulgaria "from implementing all official and direct engagements." Even when World War II broke out "Bulgaria followed and asserted its policy of neutrality."

Image of Idyllic Fascism

All in all, an idyllic image of fascism is presented, with a nice face, a fascism which did not even turn the safety catch of its weapons in World War II. Yet, let us immediately say that such "discoveries" of the existence of some kind of good Bulgarian fascism are nothing new for that author or for Bulgarian historiography in general. In the book "Bulgarian-Italian Diplomatic Relations and Ties," published last summer, that same Ilcho Dimitrov claimed that the Bulgarian fascist troops engaged in no armed actions whatever in "annexed Macedonia" and "occupied Serbia," but had been sent there only in order to protect the western border

from Albanian-Italian plans for the establishment of a Great Albania. Elaborating the same topic, the periodical ISTORICHESKI PREGLED, organ of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, literally stated last year that the Bulgarian forces in Macedonia and Serbia had "rescued the local population from the Nazi boot." In a word, Macedonia was not occupied while the Bulgarian forces were protecting the western border and rescuing the population from Nazism.

Balkan States and Just Bulgarian National Claims

Yet, this is not all. The book also explains the reason which led Bulgaria to join the Tripartite Pact. According to the author, World War I failed to resolve Bulgaria's national problem. It was a country "too small and weak to hope for a solution through its own forces," the more so since the "neighboring Balkan countries," which were, allegedly, the reason for such unresolved national problems--Yugoslavia, Romania, and Greece--"were not interested in the just Bulgarian claims." For this reason, the policy pursued by the king, the state, and the democratic public favoring the "peaceful solution of the Balkan problems," providing that Bulgaria's just claims would be honored," yielded no results. It became clear, therefore, that "Bulgaria could not align itself with the democracies and against the totalitarian states." Thus, during the war, it found itself "surrounded from all sides by hatred and mistrust." However, even then the king and the state "had no desire to join voluntarily the Tripartite Pact. They did this because they were forced." Even then, incidentally, they were able "to assert the neutrality of the state and avoid direct participation in military actions in the Balkans!"

Briefly, Bulgaria's fate as a monarchofascist country had been predetermined by the neighboring Balkan countries which refused to honor its "just claims." Nevertheless, the royal elite was sufficiently decent to maintain neutrality" and not use its weapons in the Balkans.

Finally, it is of interest to mention that the book was reviewed by Scientific Associate Lyudmila Zhivkova, Bulgarian minister of culture and member of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers Bureau.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BULGARIAN NATIONAL MINORITIES 'SWEPT UNDER THE RUG'

Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 1-2 Jan 77 p 14

[Article by Filip Simonovski: "How Is a 'Harmonious' Nation Created"]

[Text] Sofia, December (by telephone).

"A person who is neither familiar with nor able to use his national language, which, in the case of the Turks, is the Bulgarian language, cannot be a full citizen of his country."

These lines recently appeared in UCHITELSKO DELO, organ of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, published in Sofia. The newspaper called upon the Turks to "join the Bulgarian people" and "master the Bulgarian language to the level at which they would be able to say that this is the national language of all Turks in Bulgaria."

"Only a person using the Bulgarian language," UCHITELSKO DELO concluded, "could acquire best a socialist culture and live a socialist way of life." Several months before this statement, at a very well attended press conference a foreign newsman asked the Bulgarian Minister of Culture the following:

"What possibilities do people whose native language is not Bulgarian have to study the culture and national customs of their native tongue?"

The Bulgarian official's answer stated the following:

"Bulgaria's national language is Bulgarian and it is used by all Bulgarian citizens. The second national language is Russian; anyone, by himself, may choose to study another language as well."

The minister skipped and, in general, failed to mention the languages of minorities in Bulgaria.

Nationality Has No Legal Meaning

Yet, according to unofficial but reliable data, in addition to other ethnic groups (Romanians, Macedonians, and Armenians) some 1,200,000 Turks as well live in Bulgaria. Data on the Bulgarian population's national structure, based on last year's census, have not been published yet and, in all likelihood, will not be published. The reason, among others, is that in that census, taken in December 1975, the ethnic criterion was dropped entirely. The reason was that nationality "as an element of civil status" represented a "vestige of the past." Hence, "in today's Bulgaria nationality has no legal significance and, in the course of time, will be entirely forgotten by the people."

Actually, the program of the Bulgarian Communist Party, formulated at the Tenth Congress, stresses that in Bulgaria "the process of creation of a socialist nation will be developed even further," and that "the citizens of our country of different cultural backgrounds will become ever closer to one another."

On this basis, five noted scientists who studied the 1965 population census data were able to note, in their latest book entitled "Demografiya na Bulgariya" [Bulgaria's Demography] that Bulgaria is "homogenous in the national sense," even though 14.6 percent of the population belongs to minorities. "The other ethnic groups--Turks and Gypsies (naturally, the Macedonian group is ignored) do not violate the overall nature of the Bulgaria People's Republic as a one-nationality country. These groups have largely adopted Bulgarian customs and language."

The five authors state that it is true that nationality is a feature which the individual will retain throughout his life. However, they also acknowledged that in Bulgaria "there has also been crossing always in favor of the Bulgarians."

The consequences to the Turkish minority stemming from that appeal of making the Bulgarian language the national language of all Turks remains to be seen.

Harmony Between Individuals and Social Status

At the same time, yet another "national unification" process is underway--the renaming of the Turkish minority. This action is described as a "renaissance of names" or "cultural revolution." According to official data the de-Islamization of the people in the Rodopi area, where the Turkish population is most compact, has been virtually completed. It is a matter of replacing Moslem with Bulgarian names. "The Turks are using the new names not only at meetings and in documents but in practical life as well."

The authors of some pamphlets on the subject which appeared recently in Sofia acknowledge that in some places opposition is strong and even frightening. However, they claim that there should be no doubt as to the final success of the renaming, for today even those who were behind are now learning and "taking the lead." How and through what methods is not mentioned.

According to available versions the "purpose" of such name changes is, on the surface, to shut the mouths of some reactionary ideological centers abroad exploiting Moslem names in an effort to prove that Bulgarians of Islamic faith were not Bulgarians and there was no reason for them to love Bulgaria." Furthermore, the renaming would "eliminate differences existing between Christian and Moslem Bulgarians," which "hindered their joint struggle for the advancement of the nation and the fatherland."

Yet, what is the reason for the present haste involving the "national language" and "name renaissance," when even the Party's documents emphasize that "the closeness among citizens of different ethnic origin" is directly linked with the development of socialist relations, which means that it cannot take place overnight?

The answer should be sought elsewhere, the Sofia circles state: in history. All Turks now proclaiming themselves as such, the same sources claim, are not Turks but Bulgarians converted into Turks. During a dark period of Turkish slavery, that version claims, by the force of arms they were forced to adopt Islam. They adopted it and became Turks even though inside they remained Bulgarians and have always shared the destinies of the entire nation.

Therefore, the renaming of Moslems and the proclamation of the Bulgarian language as the national language of all Turks is not represented as an act of assimilation but of "harmony between people and their new social status." The five eminent authors of "Bulgaria's Demography" acknowledged, true, that the "assimilation process exists." According to them, however, it is not the result of any coercion whatever but an act of the "freedom of self-determination" which exists in Bulgaria. As to the decline in the size of the Turkish minority as a result of such "self-determination" this is an entirely different question. Both actions, it is claimed here, are a "right and clean thought and action--a progressive process which will as yet prove its positive role."

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EMANCIPATION OF ALBANIAN MINORITY WOMEN IN MACEDONIA

Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 9 Jan 77 p 2

[Interview conducted by Viktor Tsvetanovski with Ruzhdije Ajro, delegate to the Sociopolitical Congress of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia: "Through School and Factory to Total Emancipation"]

[Text] Major steps have been made in the emancipation of Albanian women in Struga Opshtina. They are no longer what they were since 30 years ago, before the war, when their life was spent mainly behind the tall fences of family homes. Today they are workers, social figures, and self managers. This topic was discussed by our newsman Viktor Tsvetanovski with Ruzhdije Ajro, teacher at the Brakya Miladinovtsi 8th-grade school in Struga, and delegate to the Sociopolitical Congress of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia.

[Question] You are one of the first Albanian women from Struga to attend secondary school and join actively in sociopolitical life. Could you, using your personal example, describe the path of emancipation?

[Answer] Going to teachers' school opened the door for me to join the sociopolitical life of the municipality. I felt it a duty to do so and to help, through my personal example, in surmounting the conservatism as to the place and role of women of Albanian nationality. I wanted to prove that that which had taken centuries to develop could be surmounted. My sociopolitical activities began as early as 1952 when I was elected delegate to the Macedonian Republic Youth Conference. Then I became member of the municipal assembly, member of the municipal trade union council, and others. I was also a member of the Presidency of the Union and the Presidency of the Republic Conference for the Social Activeness of Women. I had actively joined wherever I could and wherever this was needed. You will probably ask whether my parents or anyone else has hindered me? No one in my family hindered me. They even encouraged my activities. Yet, other people looked at me strangely. My activities did not coincide with their views on the world. However, they did not show this in the open. My sister, who graduated from a teachers' school, and both my brothers have followed my example. One of them is a lawyer while the other one is studying economics.

[Question] For over 20 years you have been working in education. What did you talk most frequently about to the students? What did you concentrate on in your working and living environment?

[Answer] I spent most of my years in rural settlements, where the least has been accomplished in the field of women's emancipation. I sought there all possibilities to convince them of the opposite to what had not changed in the course of centuries. I frequently told the students what it means for the woman to be free from the burden of patriarchal relations, and of the way other women in the world live. The hardest to convince were the older women. Let me cite a single example of these very difficult years. We organized in the villages various courses in cooking, health protection, and others. In 1956 and 1957 no single woman would enroll should the instructor be male. That is why I was always forced to teach. Subsequently, however, this changed. Particularly major changes occurred when possibilities were created for work in the public sector, so that today many women of Albanian and other nationalities work in the Struzhanka, Boris Kidrich, Edinstvo, and other factories. A number of them are participating in the work of self-managing authorities and the management of sociopolitical organizations. Some of them are also members of the municipal assembly and its sociopolitical organizations.

The greatest accomplishment has been in schooling. Today there are very few girls of Albanian nationality not going on with their studies. A number of Albanian women have become university graduates.

[Question] Some traces of the past are still visible. In your view what should be done to eliminate them?

[Answer] I think that it is necessary to continue to create conditions for women's employment. Economic projects in rural settlements as well should be built, where people of Albanian and other nationalities live. In other words, such women must become convinced that it is far better to work than to stay home. Possibilities should be created for their active inclusion in self management and in sociopolitical life. This must be constantly asserted and strengthened. In other words, they must live like other women. Finally, something else. Religion hinders overall emancipation. That is precisely why the battle of all organized socialist forces should be focused on the elimination of its negative influence.

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ALBANIA

POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY NEEDED

Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 12 Dec 76 p 3

[Article by Adil Carcani, Politburo member, first deputy secretary of the Council of Ministers: "State Direction of the Economy Is Political and Ideological Direction"]

[Text] Perfecting the organization and management of the people's economy has been and remains an important point in the party's general line and economic policy. The party line on questions of direction of the economy has always been correct. The party has always treated them from a profoundly political and proletarian class angle.

Under the party's leadership and on the basis of its general line and directives and Comrade Enver's teachings, the level of the managing work of the economic organs has been raised to a higher degree, and responsibility and discipline in work and the scientific level of economic management have been increased and strengthened. In all the links of the management of the state and the economy the party's leading role has been strengthened, the class spirit has been reinforced, and a more persistent fight has been waged against alien liberal and bureaucratic manifestations. On this basis, appreciable improvements have been made in further perfecting the method and style of work; in the administration, preservation and strengthening of socialist property; in the strengthening of proletarian discipline and the intensification of revolutionary vigilance.

The party has taken important measures to further improve the organizational structures of management, which has resulted in simplifying the apparatuses and eliminating superfluous links. Further strides have been made in the field of concentrating, cooperativizing and specializing production. From time to time, more precise and fuller definitions have been made of the authority of the state and economic organs so as to enhance their self-action and responsibility in managing the economy and to further strengthen the great principle of democratic centralism throughout the system of our state of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

This has made the management of the economy respond better to the tasks and requirements in the present stage of the country's economic and cultural development, on the way to the full construction of the socialist society.

The seventh party congress paid special attention to, and set important tasks for, further strengthening the scientific management of the economy. Comrade Enver, in his report to the party Central Committee, emphasized: "...in the economy, as in every other field, management is profoundly political and ideological in character. Otherwise it assumes a one-sided character and is endangered by economism and technocratism. Full and correct enforcement of the party's Marxist-Leninist economic policy, its orientations and directives, has been and remains the fundamental question in the whole process of managing the economy.

To further perfect economic management, we therefore have the important task of grounding the managing and planning work of the state and economic organs, in the localities and at the center, more firmly on the party's general line and economic policy; continually strengthening the party's leading role in managing the economy and insuring a partisan treatment and solution of every problem, under the guidance of the party organs and organizations. This demands a flawless analysis and enforcement of the party's orientations, directives and decisions and a correct and consistent conduct of the class struggle, as an indispensable condition for overcoming the shortcomings and weaknesses, as well as for combating the alien manifestations of liberalism and bureaucratism.

Management of the economy by the state and economic organs--by thoroughly enforcing the party line and the fundamental principles of the construction of the socialist society, such as the basic principle of democratic centralism, the principle of reliance on our own forces, the all-around prosecution of the class struggle, and the consistent following of the line of the masses--has played and is playing a very important role from the political, ideological and economic-organizational standpoint in raising to a higher degree the exploitation of all the country's economic resources, in insuring full and efficient exploitation of all the production capacities, in strengthening the thrift regime, in raising the economic profitability of investments, in reducing imports to a minimum, in raising exports, and so forth. This task is now becoming still more necessary in order to successfully resist the imperialist-revisionist blockade, to make the effects of the deep economic-financial crisis in the capitalist and revisionist countries felt as little as possible by our economy and to respond better to the needs for the rapid and uninterrupted development of the socialist economy in general.

The seventh party congress devoted special attention to the full enforcement of democratic centralism in the field of the management of the economy, as a great revolutionary principle combining centralized and planned direction of the economy by the socialist state with the revolutionary initiative of the local organizations, the working class and the working masses. Comrade Enver has stressed that the party has considered and continues to consider the lively participation of the workers in the management of the economy as a fundamental question regarding the principle of democratic centralism. It has criticized and condemned as alien the technocratic and intellectualistic concepts which view the masses simply as a work force, as well as the

manifestations of formalism in listening to and eliciting their opinion. Therefore, under today's conditions, when the economy is faced with very great tasks in the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the state and economic organs, while keeping firmly in the hands of the party and the state, of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the levers controlling the management and planned development of the people's economy and effecting an all-around strengthening of proletarian labor discipline in the fight against liberal and bureaucratic manifestations, must further enforce the line of the masses, and submit entirely in their work and activity to the interests, will and control of the working class and the working masses. This requires that they take serious measures to improve continually their method and style of work to the end that they may become closely bound to the masses, listen to and rely strongly on their creative opinion, support without reservation the revolutionary initiatives and movements of the masses for the development of production, execute their just demands and proposals, and generalize advanced experience and positive examples in an organized manner.

The seventh party congress at the same time posed the absolute necessity of universally strengthening proletarian discipline in all links of the economy from the center to the localities, combining and correctly evaluating the two sides of the principle of democratic centralism, centralized management by the state with the initiative of the localities and the working masses. The point is that the state and economic organs must maintain complete responsibility for carrying out the plan tasks, strengthen the demands for an accounting on the enforcement of decisions and tasks, hold a categorical and determined attitude against concessions and violations of the party's directives and the state laws which harm the party line in the field of the management of the economy.

Plan discipline demands of everyone the absolute execution of the specific tasks in all the indicators: quantity, assortment, quality, profitability and cost; and the all-around strengthening of contractual discipline, in order to give the economy and the people precisely those material goods for which the state economic plan provides. Therefore, tendencies toward "globalism," euphoria, subjectivism and formalism in executing the plan tasks are alien and detrimental to scientific management of the economy.

Within this framework, we must show special care for the all-around strengthening of financial discipline. The seventh party congress set the task of seeing to it that finance and accounting never remain merely a matter of recording, calculating and distributing monetary funds, but that they be operative in an active manner, strengthening dynamic control through the lek, and become a barricade to prevent any action from lapsing into opposition to plan and financial discipline.

Under the party's leadership, the scientific level of the planning of the economy has been continually rising, and a successful fight has been waged against manifestations of the voluntarism and subjectivism in the planning

process which the enemies of the party and the people--Abdul Kellizi, Koco Theodhosi, Kico Ngjela and others--have attempted to practice. Under the present conditions of development of the people's economy at a steady and rapid rate, the seventh party congress, resting upon the principles of Marxism-Leninism and Comrade Enver's teachings, set the task of raising the scientific planning of the economy to a higher degree on the basis of a fuller reflection of the party's economic policy and the requirements of the objective economic laws of socialism. The point is to ground scientific planning more fully and widely on the thinking of the masses and their advanced experience, on a thorough study of the problems, on the basis of the party's directives and orientations, on the fullest possible use of balancing methods and on consideration of the proportions between the various branches of the economy. Hence, the planning organs at the center and in the localities, both in drafting the plans and during their execution, must do an all-around job of acquainting themselves thoroughly with the problems of the development of the socialist economy, discovering internal reserves, establishing everywhere a strict thrift regime and steel-like proletarian discipline, and widely applying the line of the masses.

A great reserve for further perfecting planned management of the economy and deepening its scientific character is the knowledge and organized dissemination of the advanced experience of the broad working masses. Advanced experience and good examples represent the new, which forges ahead and to which the future belongs. It is therefore necessary that the state and economic organs take a firm hold on the best experience, generalize it, stimulate people to move ever ahead, breaking down every obstacle in the way of disseminating advanced experience. This requires that all the state and economic organs carry out the great task set by the seventh party congress--namely that, from the 1977 plan on, planning shall absolutely be done on the basis of the advanced average and that all measures shall be taken to realize without fail the plan drafted on the basis of the advanced average.

In executing this very important order, the state and economic organs likewise have the primary task of strongly supporting the revolutionary initiatives and movements of the working class, the cooperativist peasants and the other working masses, such as, for example, the movement of the worker collective of the Trakori plant with the revolutionary slogan "Let us work, fight and live as if encircled"; that of the Enver plant and the super-phosphate plant in Lac, the dozens of farm cooperatives in the country, to fulfill and overfulfill the tasks of the Sixth Five-Year Plan, which are being supported and accepted by all the broad working masses of town and country.

The further perfection of the management of the economy, as directed by the seventh party congress, demands further revolutionization of the method and style of work of the state and economic organs and their apparatuses in combating formalism, general, not concrete management, deficiencies in

coordinating problems, narrow economism, the departmental and sector spirit, as well as the harmful manifestations of bureaucratism and liberalism. For this purpose it is necessary to know and understand thoroughly the party's directives and orientations to the effect that the problems of the development of the economy shall be viewed and resolved from the political class angle and that the authorities granted shall be exercised with precision by every link, being understood not only as rights, but as duties.

The further revolutionization of the method and style of work of the state and economic organs requires the creation of revolutionary concepts, especially in their apparatuses and administrations, about their being levers of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the working class in power and its party, as the leading force in the system of the dictatorship of the proletariat; hence, the people who work in them must serve the cause of socialism faithfully, enforce with a high degree of responsibility and steel-like discipline the orientations, directives and decisions of the party and the proletarian state, be ever revolutionary in the service of the class, too, continually render an accounting to it and to the masses, and submit to their control as a matter of duty.

Without creating such revolutionary concepts in the people who work in the state and economic organs and their apparatuses, we cannot properly combat the manifestations of bureaucratism, technocratism and liberalism and the tendency of the apparatuses to command and place themselves above the elected organs, which constitutes a serious danger in the form of weakening and degeneration of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The performance of the above task is of very great importance, especially under the present conditions of imperialist-revisionist encirclement and ideological aggression against our country. For this purpose it is necessary, while deepening the party's ideological work, to enforce persistently all of the party's norms, orientations and decisions on the revolutionization of the cadres and the rejuvenation of the state and economic apparatuses and organs, such as the continual improvement of their social makeup, by bringing in as many cadres of worker origin and composition as possible; by the rotation of cadres, direct work in production and the rendering of accounts to the class and the masses in an organized manner.

These are great political and ideological tasks, great questions regarding the general line of the party, which have also been stressed with great force by the seventh party congress and must be applied without any concessions by all the state and economic organs in order to further strengthen the political and ideological character of the management of the economy. Above all, it is imperative to further strengthen the leading role of the party organizations in all the state and economic organs in studying, assimilating, analyzing and fully applying in practice the very important political and ideological tasks connected with the further improvement of the management of the economy.

Directly related to the further revolutionization of the method and style of work of the state and economic organs is the all-around strengthening of the control of the enforcement of the decisions. The seventh congress set the important task of strengthening the state control in every way by all the economic and governmental organs, in the localities and in the center; not leaving it as a task only for the specialized control organs but applying consistently everywhere the revolutionary slogan of the party, "Trust and Control."

The main thing is that the control by the state and economic organs shall be, above all, a revolutionary control, not a bureaucratic one, exposing the alien concepts and practices contrary to the party's policy and directives. The issue is that it should be a thorough and well-qualified control, get to the bottom of things and, above all, be effective and improve the situation. It is also of special importance to insure the most complete possible inter-meshing of all the forms of control operating in the system of the dictatorship of the proletariat. This requires that state control be based firmly on direct control by the working class and the other working masses, which is one of the most important directions of the class struggle to insure the victory of socialism and an expression of the exercise of the dictatorship of the proletariat by the working class in alliance with the peasants.

The historic decisions of the seventh party congress, and particularly Comrade Enver's programmatic report, have armed the party, the state and economic organs and all our workers with powerful revolutionary teachings conducive to understanding still more thoroughly the need to make the management of the economy truly political and ideological, so as to insure full analysis and concessionless enforcement of the party's economic policy and the uninterrupted development of the class struggle in the economy, against all alien manifestations and every hostile activity.

Perfecting the management of the economy on the basis of the decisions of the seventh congress and Comrade Enver's teachings will give a powerful impetus to the development of our socialist economy and will become a powerful lever in the party's hands for insuring the successful performance of the grand tasks of the Sixth Five-Year Plan for the Development of the People's Economy.

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EAST GERMANY

SOCIALISM'S NEED FOR EFFECTIVE LAW-AND-ORDER SYSTEM ANALYZED

East Berlin DEUTSCHE ZEITSCHRIFT FUER PHILOSOPHIE in German Vol 24 No 11, Nov 76 signed to press 3 Sep 76 pp 1336-1345

[Article by Dr Arno Lutzke and Dr Rolf Schoenfeld, German People's Police Academy, East Berlin: "Legality, Order and Security--Basic Conditions for the Development and Protection of the Socialist Society"]

[Text] The further construction of the developed socialist society and the creation of fundamental preconditions for the gradual transition to communism is a process carried out by the working class and the other working people under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party in accordance with the "general inevitabilities in the revolutionary development as well as the construction of socialism and communism."¹ It takes account of the concrete conditions of the international class struggle and of those that prevail in any given country. One of these inevitabilities is the protection of the socialist revolution as well as of socialist and communist construction.² Accepting the responsibility for this protection is one of the basic problems in the exercise of power by the working class. It cannot fulfill its "historic task of establishing the socialist, communist society"³ without a consistent solution of that problem.

The course of the world revolutionary process has "by no means done away with the possibility of various courses of revolution, a peaceful course among them, provided the necessary conditions are at hand."⁴ At the same time, however, the ongoing class struggles are imperatively reminding us that "a revolution is only worth something if it knows how to defend itself."⁵ V. I. Lenin elaborated a coherent doctrine for the defense of the socialist fatherland which became a component of his plan on socialist construction. It forms the scientific foundation for the Marxist-Leninist parties' military policy.⁶ Organizing the armed protection of socialism never has been a purely national concern. That task rather has been, and is, most closely tied to the power ratio and the course of the world revolutionary process in the epoch of transition from capitalism to socialism. V. I. Lenin made the point that "the transition from capitalism to communism spans a whole historic period. As long as it has not been concluded, the exploiters will inevitably hold on to the hope for restoration, and that hope will change into attempts at restoration."⁷ The more than 100 military aggressions started after World War II by

imperialist powers, intended to stop or reverse social progress, testify to that. Imperialist activities aiming at enforcing the arms race even under the conditions of political detente or of the implementation of a peaceful coexistence policy, and at strengthening the ideological diversion against the socialist countries and the national liberation movement, are confirming it.

Unperturbed, the socialist states are continuing their struggle for permanent world peace and keep looking "patiently and consistently, for always new means for developing peaceful, mutually advantageous collaboration with states with differing social orders, for means for disarmament."⁸ However, as long as influential imperialist circles threaten by military means the peace and the peoples' struggle for social progress, the socialist states rallied around the Soviet Union will do all they can to create favorable external conditions for the construction of socialism and communism through reliable military protection, safeguard the peace and support the worldwide struggle of the peoples for national and social liberation. The principle holds that the forces that are protecting the peace must be superior to those that, in violation of the peoples' interests, are threatening it.⁹ "In view of the undiminished aggressiveness of imperialism, of the arms race enforced by the ruling imperialist circles, and the stubborn and dangerous attempts at undermining the process of detente, an incessant strengthening of the defense capability is and remains a decisive guarantee for making peace permanently secure and for insuring favorable conditions for the further shaping of the developed socialist society."¹⁰

Whereas the imperialist armed forces and intelligence services have proven themselves in history, thousand times over, as instruments of aggression, diversion and threat to the citizens' life in peace, the armies of the socialist states and the other protective and security organs are important factors for taming the aggressors, eliminating hotbeds of war, and providing the struggle for permanent peace with a secure foundation. Peace in Europe has now been preserved and stabilized for over 30 years because the socialist states, mainly the Soviet Union, along with the political and economic might of their fraternal alliance, also applied their military power for its protection. The collective military defense of socialism is a decisive factor in securing the peace on behalf of the further social progress of humanity. The reliable protection of socialism, the safeguarding of the power of the working class, created fundamental conditions for an unrestrained functioning of all other universally valid inevitabilities of social development, for the blossoming of all advantages and impulses, and thus for the solution of all tasks, of socialist and communist construction. And so, the protection thus assured also is an overall social concern and a component in all efforts on behalf of the further shaping of the developed socialist society and the creation of fundamental preconditions for the gradual transition to communism.¹¹ All fraternal parties in the socialist community of states in their program documents that treat the molding or perfecting of the developed socialist society are agreed in their definition of the need for protection, in a comprehensive sense, as an element in the development of socialist and communist conditions, as defense against any imperialist aggression or intervention, and as a security for the socialist state and legal order, for the peaceful life of their citizens and their legally insured interests.¹²

Far-reaching requirements arise from that for safeguarding legality, order and security. "They result, not last, from the increased attempts the adversary is making toward subverting socialism from within."¹³ By exploiting results of detente achieved, various efforts are being made to obstruct in many different ways an undisturbed internal development of socialist society. Therefore, the protection of socialism is not confined to military defense against outside imperialist aggression. Rather, in the practical way the socialist state works, there exists an objective unity between the defense against imperialist attacks, the suppression of counterrevolutionary forces, the protection of the socialist state and legal order, especially of public property, and of the citizens' rights and freedoms. All efforts undertaken by the working class, under the leadership of its party, have the common goal and unified task of thwarting the policy of aggression by imperialism, insuring the inviolability of the national borders and state security against any subversive activities, and reliably protecting the socialist order and the peaceful life of the citizens. Within this complex process of protection, the fundamental importance under prevailing conditions lies in the defense against, and destruction of, imperialist attempts at aggression and subversion because it is imperialism from where the main danger comes. Along with those manifestations, stemming from the antagonistic contradiction between socialism and imperialism, there are others of a different social quality. That is one of the reasons why the tasks and methods in providing protection are diverse. This being so, it still must be taken into account that the violation of legality, order and security, unless they are of a minor nature, also have to be looked at under the aspect of the international class conflict between socialism and capitalism and assessed in terms of their political relevance.

The documents of the CPSU, the SED and the other fraternal parties in socialist countries pertain to the task of further shaping social conditions and comprehensively developing the advantages of socialism. Factors obstructing that process, in particular residues of the past in the thoughts and conduct of the people, deficiencies in management activity and also contradictions of a nonantagonistic character, still produce manifestations that hamper the social developmental process and cause serious material losses and political and moral damage. The strength of society in coping with them is growing. In all domains, intolerance to violations of law and morality is growing, and the cooperation between state organs and the working people in making socialist law prevail is becoming ever closer. A comprehensive voluntary and aware abiding by socialist law is fully in line with vigorous state reaction to law violations. It should be noted in this connection that the imperialist intelligence services are seeking to exploit for their own subversive ends any law violations, disorder and insecurity in public life. They are misusing criminal elements and persons who are politically and morally unstable for their own purposes, seeking to "camouflage, more and more, subversive activities by general criminal acts"¹⁴ and to incite general criminal acts and other law violations. The protection of the socialist revolution and of socialist and communist construction requires at this time developing further all the sides of this complex process, the military protection, the safeguarding of state security vis-a-vis counterrevolutionary subversion, and the insurance of exemplary public order and security, always to the extent necessary, whereby to take account always of the ever closer links and interrelations among them.

Proceeding from there, the SED program holds the NVA and the GDR border troops, the organs of the Ministry of the Interior and of the Ministry for State Security, the civil defense forces and the working class militia responsible for insuring the protection of socialism and peace, territorial integrity, the inviolability of the national borders and the state security of the GDR and, under all conditions, a high fighting strength and combat and operational readiness.¹⁵

Of decisive importance for the reliable protection of each and every socialist country are the firm alliance with the Soviet Union and joint operations within the Warsaw Pact military organization. This provides an effective contribution to insuring world peace and creating favorable conditions for the construction of socialism and communism. All protective activities of socialist society aim at granting the necessary stability to the social conditions and the state order and at protecting the society as much as the citizens from material, political and moral harm. The working class and its allies, under the leadership by the Marxist-Leninist party, take care of the protection of socialism as an overall social task. And the requirements here are not confined to defense against disturbances and dangers, for the dictatorship of the proletariat by no means is principally a matter of coercion (Lenin). The socialist state of the workers and farmers which fulfills the function of the dictatorship of the proletariat mainly has the purpose of serving as an instrument for creating new, socialist social relations. Organization and protection are fused in unity in the construction of socialism and communism. Any activity that insures protection, rebukes attacks on the socialist state and the peaceful life of its citizens, or creates favorable developmental conditions, through preventative action, for the creative activities of the working class and its allies makes a contribution to the development of society. And likewise, the results achieved in all public domains are prerequisite to an increasingly more effective assurance of protection. Only when this connection is taken into consideration can the means needed for the protection of socialism be provided and the social forces needed, be developed.

The inseparable connection between the shaping and protection of developed socialism provides the explanation for why the consolidation of the socialist legal order and the strict observance of legality, order and security are becoming more important in all domains and the working class and all working people are ever more strongly focusing their creative initiatives upon it. Their activities are growing on the foundation of the advantages of socialist society. They are "mainly the stable political security for the peaceful life of all working people in our republic, guaranteed by the domestic and foreign policy of the socialist state in the interest of the working people. Furthermore, the people's social security, which is becoming especially apparent in our country just now, when the capitalist world is shaken by new crises. And then, not last, there is a high degree of legal security, guaranteed by firm legal enactments on the inviolability of life and health and property, and the basic rights and basic duties of the citizens in our state, and which is making a stark contrast with the increasing legal insecurity and criminal morass in which the capitalist system is drowning more and more."¹⁶

Socialism produces an entirely new quality of legal security, of personal security and safety from criminal acts and other law violations, which would be inconceivable in the world of the profit economy.

That, in spite of it, we have to concern ourselves still more with legality, order and security has something to do with the purpose of socialism, which is: to do everything for the good of the people. This becomes necessary because in the course of social development the contradiction between those working people who are actively participating in the molding of society and those others who disturb, or even harm, that molding process by antisocial behavior, especially by criminal acts, becomes greater all the time so that, consequently, the social intolerance toward that kind of behavior becomes greater too. The working class and all working people develop their creativity "in order also to tap by means of their law and of the principles of order, discipline and security vested in it, through their work and fellowship, further reserves for the material and cultural enrichment of their lives and for increasing the efficiency of their daily work."¹⁷ The main task contains important interconnections that want to be systematically developed, a socialist legal order developing synchronically with the maturation of socialist society. Right out in front there is the education of the working people for voluntarily abiding by socialist law, wherein the will of the working class is expressed, an essential tool for the exercise of power. The goal is to develop the respect for law and legality as a personal conviction and life's habit on the part of the citizens. Furthermore, the abiding by legality, order and security has to become the working people's own business, a firm component of socialist competition and of the management activities of all state and economic functionaries, and these activities must be more closely connected with the work of the organs of justice and security.¹⁸ The decisive connection here lies between the political course of the party, directed at the implementation of the main task, and the strengthening of the socialist state. The main task can be fulfilled only for the benefit of all the people if the power of the workers and the farmers is secure. Strengthening the socialist legal order and protecting legality, order and security are therefore, first and foremost, important means for exercising this power for the good of the people and for always keeping them "firmly in hand."

An important connection exists here now between perfecting the material-technical base of socialism and the enforcing of sound legality, order and security. Basic to a social policy conforming to the main task is stable economic growth with high productivity and social labor efficiency. The main road to it is the intensification of social production. The main factor is scientific-technical progress. This whole frame of reference -- the realization of the social policy, stable economic growth, increased labor productivity and efficiency in social labor, intensification of production, and scientific-technical progress -- creates higher demands for protecting legality, order and security. Especially important here is the interconnection between the production intensification and scientific-technical progress. One must observe and enforce legality, order and security as essential conditions for our intensification. "Scientific discoveries and technical inventions do not

per se, automatically, improve production efficiency. Improving the organization of production, labor discipline and greater responsibility are indispensable conditions for technical progress."¹⁹ The demands on conduct resulting therefrom must be enforced through the right combination of economic and legal measures with means of indoctrination and of social and state coercion.

Through the shaping of the developed socialist society, especially through socialist economic integration, constantly growing economic dimensions and international links develop in the sense of a higher technical and technological level. From that also more far-reaching quantitative and qualitative demands on legality, order and security arise, which have to be met by overall social efforts and, particularly, by skilled activities on the part of the state organs. This way alone can the material prerequisites be met for our social policy, the development of socialist democracy and the socialist way of life and for our defense.²⁰ The increasing demands, from the economic vantage point, become altogether evident if one considers that a working person in the GDR carries a responsibility for an average of M 72,000 in basic assets, and draws the conclusion from that with regard to the individual working person on whom great demands are placed for augmenting and protecting public property. They must correspond to the management activity of the state and economic functionaries and to the work of the organs of justice and security. In the field of material production, the working class has met these requirements in particular by including the struggle for legality, order and security in socialist competition. Results achieved demonstrate that thereby reserves for economic and social progress are being tapped and important conditions are produced for the working people's undisturbed creative activities. From 1971 to 1975, for example, labor accidents in the state-owned Buna Chemical Plant could be reduced by 45 percent, providing public labor wealth with a saving of 100,000 hours. Instances of fire caused by negligence were diminished by 20 percent annually, which had a lot to do with the fact that commodity production rose annually by from 7 to 7.2 percent and additional goods could be produced valued at M 19 per M 1,000 in basic assets invested.²¹ As a consequence of rising value concentrations, criminal acts and other law and discipline violations can cause greater material losses than in the past. Increased allocations of basic assets, modern technical procedures, complicated technologies and division of labor processes will, however, cause disturbances and dangers with, partly, considerable political, economic and social consequences, only if one fails to take the necessary precautions in the increased demands placed on the activities of the state and economic organs, the responsibility and mode of conduct of the people, and the security techniques. The decisive link in the chain here is man himself because it is his ideas by which the production sites, machines, equipment, technologies and division of labor and cooperative processes are organized. His development into a socialist personality stands in the center. Repressing antisocial manifestations from the life of society comes through the unity between prevention and attack. Prevention comes under various aspects. They are, first of all, encountered in the historic maturation process of socialist society itself, in the ever more extensive molding of its advantages and impulses and the constraint, combined with it, of the radius of violations of law and morality. And they are equally much encountered in the direct effect

the justice and security organs have on rigorously enforcing socialist law and eliminating causes and conditions that led to law violations. The goal is to guarantee the working people's safety and security as an inviolable attribute of life under socialism and to tap reserves for increasing national revenue.

Important as the material side of this problem is, it must not be left at that. Rather, it is a matter of always taking into account that wherever the attitude toward work, labor discipline and the enforcement of legality, order and security has not yet been developed to the appropriate extent, a feeding ground for law violations exists. They often suggest that the principles of strict accountability and control over the volumes of labor and consumption are not being fully enforced and that there are weaknesses in management activity, labor organization, control and vigilance and in abiding by operations and security regulations and so forth. "Public property requires the kind of connection between man and the means of production that makes all members of society act as collective proprietors and in service to the interests they hold in common."²² From there, far-reaching effects are being exercised on the organization of all other public connections and relationships, on the all round development of personality and the development of socialist democracy and the socialist way of life. Criminal acts and other law violations are indicators that that connection has been inadequately developed or has been disturbed in individual working people or work collectives. And that is the reason why the struggle for legality, order and security also always aims at uncovering the causes and conditions for all violations in order to eliminate them as obstacles for economic, political, ideological, moral and cultural development. And for this very reason also is the protection of public property one of the most important functions the socialist state has.²³

Legality, order and security not only create the prerequisites for raising the material and cultural standard of living. They rather are themselves part of it. Their protection provides important conditions giving the working people a life of comfort and security on the job and during leisure when they are engaged in culture, sports and recreation. The working people must be able to rely on having their lives, health, personal property and all legal interests reliably protected. High demands for legality, order and security also are caused by the formation of the socialist way of life. The SED "sees to it that the ways and means of public life and individual conduct characteristic of the developed socialist society will more and more be molded -- at work and at leisure, in the work collective and in the family and in the manner of living."²⁴ That brings about the kind of life activities and human relations which form important concrete conditions for preventing, and more successfully fighting against, law violations until, on our way toward communism, they will eventually forfeit the entire basis of their social existence. For that, the mode of production is the decisive, material social foundation. However, this effect can be attained only if the way of life that conforms to it will emerge and will crystallize and root deeply in the personal lives, the life's habits and the modes of thinking and conduct of all members of society.

That kind of effect is generated by the socialist way of life because it is the major crystallization point for the whole economic, social, ideological and cultural development, for the working people's activities in the labor process, within the family in in all their leisure. The effect is brought about because the way of life is of a complex nature and touches on all aspects of public life, going a long way toward molding personal lives in their totality. And so, a socialist attitude toward public property and labor, a meaningful way of life within socialist society, and active participation in the solution of economic tasks and in the management and solution of state and public affairs, a high educational level, diversified spiritual-cultural needs and communist conviction are the major conditions for banning, or more effectively fighting against, asocial and antisocial acts and for placing law violators under more effective rehabilitation. The idea that guides us in this is that nothing "develops personality as much as an active position taken in life, conscious responding to public obligations, when the unity between words and deeds has become an everyday standard of conduct."²⁵ Conceptions that would confine the socialist way of life solely to the sphere outside of the work situation are unsuitable in this approach, we think.²⁶ For enforcing legality, order and security it is very important for the socialist principles and modes of conduct to be made components of everyday life equally much at work and at leisure. Precisely the relationships established in the work collective are the most important. Only when the cornerstone is laid in the labor process and when the political organization of socialist society enforces the comprehensive and permanent authority of law and morality, can a higher level of legality, order and security be obtained in the production process and in all of society, and can the education of the citizens toward voluntarily abiding by legal and moral norms become more effective. No other way leads to that kind of maturity of people and of social relations in which Lenin saw the gradually emerging precondition for the transition to communism and which consists in having "the need for observing the uncomplicated basic rules for any kind of human fellowship become a habit."²⁷ In the pursuit of that goal, the socialist way of life must be enforced against manifestations that are alien to its nature such as individualism, egoism, profiteering, disregard for life and health, for the honor and dignity of the citizens, non-compliance with legally established public obligations, asocial conduct, dipsomania and so forth. For law violations are among the negative consequences resulting from such manifestations, and one must fight against them resolutely.²⁸

One of the significant aspects of the qualitative life men lead under socialism lies in the level of legality, order and security being appropriate to the concrete-historic degree of maturation of society. That favors and furthers the working people's creative activities on behalf of historic progress. Legality, order and security show up as concrete sides of social relations which men of necessity produce and enter into in all their material and intellectual activities. They come as the results of the conscious practical activities of the working class, its Marxist-Leninist party, the socialist state, all political organizations and the individual citizens. Objective requirements of social development these are, and they have to be met.

Regardless of what any individual may have in mind, the measure of legality, order and security necessary for historical progress, as conforming to the developmental state of the productive forces, and being the qualitative side of social relations, has to be enforced. That is what men encounter at any given stage and what they continually improve upon through conscious action. This gives rise to the following dialectic reciprocity: The protection of socialism and the safeguarding of legality, order and security are objective conditions for molding and consolidating all other relations within socialist society, and they in turn become themselves objective conditions for the former.

The interest the working class has in the protection of its power relations is the most important impulse for constantly creating those conditions, under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party and through all its political organizations, that insure the reliable protection, perfect legality, order and security. The working class is the major social and political force in this. In the process of fulfilling its historic mission, it produces a historically new quality of protection. The working class is "the chief subject of this historic creativity" which insures the transition from the capitalist to classless communist society "and rallies in unity around itself the broadest popular masses of the working people."²⁹ Historic experiences thus far have demonstrated that the working class can further shape the developed socialist society and create basic preconditions for the transition to communism only while it successfully exercises and consolidates its political power. Reliable protection is a decisive condition for it. The protection of socialism, the consolidation of the socialist state and legal order, and the safeguarding of legality, order and security are results of, as well as prerequisites for, the social maturation process. Making that prevail is a task that will be confronting us for a long historic period to come.

FOOTNOTES

1. L. I. Brezhnev, "25th CPSU Congress--CPSU Central Committee Status Report and the Next Party Tasks in Domestic and Foreign Policy," Berlin, 1976, p 39.
2. Cf. "Statement of the Conference of Representatives of the Communist and Workers Parties of the Socialist Countries," Moscow, 1957, Berlin, 1958, p 13.
3. E. Honecker, "Bericht des Zentralkomitees der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands an den IX. Parteitag der SED" (SED Central Committee Report to the Ninth SED Congress), Berlin, 1976, p 110.
4. L. I. Brezhnev, op. cit., p 38.
5. V. I. Lenin, "Report of the Joint Session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviets, the Enterprise Committees and the Trade Unions, "Werke" (Works), Vol 28, Berlin, 1959, p 115.

6. Cf. Authors' Collective, "Marksisko-Leninskoye ucheniye o sotsializme i sovremennost'" (Marxist-Leninist Doctrine on Contemporary Socialism), Moscow, 1975, pp 491 ff.
7. V. I. Lenin, "The Proletarian Revolution and Renegade Kautsky," "Werke," Vol 28, pp 252 f.
8. L. I. Brezhnev, op. cit., p 32.
9. Cf. H. Hoffmann, "Forever on Watch for Peace and Socialism," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 20 May 1976, p 8.
10. E. Honecker, op. cit., p 118.
11. Cf. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands" (SED Program), Berlin, 1976, p 21, pp 59 ff.
12. Cf. L. I. Brezhnev, op. cit., pp 100 ff; "From the Report on Party Activity and the Development of Society since the 14th CPCZ Congress," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 13 April 1976, p 3; "For Continued Dynamic Development of Socialist Construction--For a Higher Quality of Work and the People's Living Conditions--Resolution of the Seventh PZPR Congress," Warsaw, 1975, pp 29 f; "11th MSZMP Congress," Berlin, 1975, pp 102 ff.
13. H. Scheibe, "Reliably Protecting Our Socialist Work of Construction," EINHEIT, No 7, 1976, p 753.
14. E. Mielke, "With Great Responsibility for the Reliable Protection of Socialism," EINHEIT, No 1, 1975, p 52.
15. Cf. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands," loc. cit., p 64.
16. W. Weichelt, "The Movement for Exemplary Order, Discipline and Security--A Contribution to the Fulfillment of the Main Task," AUS DER TAETIGKEIT DER VOLKSKAMMER UND IHRER AUSSCHUESSE, No 13, 1976, p 24.
17. Ibid.
18. Cf. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands," loc. cit., p 43.
19. P. N. Fedoseyev, "The Dialectic of Developed Socialist Society," DEUTSCHE ZEITSCHRIFT FUER PHILOSOPHIE, No 1, 1975, p 16.
20. Cf. F. Dickel, "For the Safe Protection of the Workers-and-Farmers' Power," EINHEIT, No 6, 1975, pp 622 ff.
21. Cf. O. Baerwinkel, "Order, Discipline and Security Help in the Smooth Fulfillment of Our Plan," AUS DER TAETIGKEIT DER VOLKSKAMMER UND IHRER AUSSCHUESSE, No 13, 1976, pp 38 ff.

22. Authors' Collective, op. cit, p 113.
23. Cf. "Marxistisch-leninistische allgemeine Theorie des Staates and des Rechts" (General Marxist-Leninist State and Law Theory), Vol 3, Berlin, 1975, pp 107 ff.
24. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands," loc. cit., p 53.
25. L. I. Brezhnev, op. cit., p 95.
26. Cf. "Wissenschaftlicher Kommunismus" (Scientific Communism), Berlin, 1975, p 484; V. Kelle and M. Kovalson, "Historical Materialism," Moscow, 1975, p 77.
27. V. I. Lenin, "State and Revolution," "Werke," Vol 25, Berlin, 1960, p 489.
28. Cf. "Programm der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands," loc. cit., pp 55 f.
29. Authors' Collective, op. cit., p 93.

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EAST GERMANY

DATA SUPPLIED ON IMPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY PENSION INSURANCE

East Berlin PRESSE-INFORMATIONEN in German 4 Jan 77 pp 2-3

[Interview with Herbert Pueschel, deputy director of FDGB federal executive committee's social insurance administration]

[Text] [Question] How extensive is the working people's participation in the voluntary supplementary pension insurance scheme?

[Answer] Altogether about 4 million blue and white collar workers, members of the intelligentsia, members of production cooperatives and other citizens subject to compulsory social insurance contributions and earning more than M600 per month may conclude a voluntary supplementary pension insurance contract. By the end of 1976 about 2.8 million citizens had joined this voluntary supplementary insurance system. In 1975 a monthly average of 38,000 working people concluded voluntary insurance contracts, the monthly average in 1976 amounted to 44,000 working people.

All these working people have earned higher claims on sickness benefits or other financial services of the social insurance--such as maternity benefits --and supplementary pensions payable on retirement, disablement or to dependent heirs. By now more than 200,000 pensioners are drawing a pension from the voluntary supplementary pension insurance, additional to their pension from the obligator social insurance scheme.

[Question] Further improvements in the voluntary supplementary pension insurance scheme were provided by the joint resolution on the ongoing planned improvement of the working and living conditions of the working people in the period 1976-1980, adopted on 27 May 1976. Which of these took effect on 1 January?

[Answer] From 1 January 1977 blue and white collar workers and members of socialist production cooperatives may pay contributions to the voluntary pension insurance scheme for incomes exceeding M1,200 per month, thereby earning the right to increased supplementary pensions. The contribution for actual earnings above M1,200 monthly or M14,400 annually amounts to 10 percent for the working people as well as for enterprises and cooperatives. It

is not permissible to increase the contribution for only part of the income earned in excess of M1,200 monthly.

Working people with a monthly salary or wage exceeding M1,200 may continue to pay only the present contribution of M60 for the income up to M1,200. However when, at a later date, the supplementary pension is compounded, M600 will be the base amount. After contributing to the voluntary supplementary pension scheme for 25 years, working people will be exempt, from the 26th year on, from payment of contributions amounting to 10 percent of earnings in excess of M600. In these cases the enterprises and cooperatives will continue to pay their 10 percent contribution. For the self-employed the contribution, after 25 years of contributions to the voluntary supplementary pension insurance, is reduced from 20 percent to 10 percent. This exemption from contributions for the working people applies to all earnings in excess of M600 in those cases where the working people concerned had always contributed to the voluntary supplementary pension insurance scheme in accordance with their actual earnings.

If working people do not at all times pay contributions to the voluntary supplementary pension insurance based on their total earnings, exemption from contributions from the 26th year of membership applies only to incomes up to M1,200 per month. Insured persons are therefore well advised to pay contributions based on their actual earnings at an early age--as soon as their earnings exceed M600 per month.

[Question] What other improvements will become effective in 1977?

[Answer] Older working people will be credited with additional insurance periods ranging from 1-15 years, and these will be calculated at 2.5 percent per annum from 1 September next instead of the former 1 percent. The condition is that the working people involved, if women, were more than 45 years old on 1 March 1971, if men more than 50 years old, and that they are either contributors to the voluntary supplementary pension insurance scheme or join it by 31 August 1977 with effect from 1 January 1977.

[Question] What effect does the voluntary supplementary pension insurance have?

[Answer] It is advantageous in every case for working people earning more than M600 per month to join the voluntary supplementary insurance scheme. At average monthly gross earnings of M1,00, equaling M757.70 net in tax class II, the percentage of the total pension, for example, amounts to some 74 percent of net earnings for members of the voluntary supplementary pension scheme who begin to draw a pension after 15 years. After 20 years of membership in the scheme the percentage rises to 81, and after 25 years to 87. If the worker has failed to join the voluntary supplementary pension scheme, his or her pension from compulsory social insurance amounts to about 54 percent of monthly net earnings. The basis of computation is a full working life, and it is presumed that the stated earnings were achieved in the last

20 calendar years of compulsory insurance and the stated calendar years of voluntary supplementary insurance prior to the beginning of pension payments.

This example shows quite clearly the excellent relation possible between the total claim for pension and the earnings of those who join the voluntary supplementary insurance scheme. All state managers and labor union functionaries consider it their duty to explain the further improved services of the voluntary supplementary pension scheme to all working people entitled to join. That also is part of the functions of the labor unions and the further implementation of the joint resolution of 27 May 1976.

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MODERNIZATION OF ECONOMICS TEACHING IN HIGHER SCHOOLS NEEDED

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[Article by Bogumila Kotowicz-Kata, Main School of Planning and Statistics]

[Text] The development of economic sciences in the area of general theoretical subjects and detailed economics, and a parallel generalization of higher studies, necessitate a modernization of the teaching process in higher schools. This modernization should be understood in a broad sense, including both the plans and the teaching programs, the organization of the course of studies, improvement of the teaching staff, the updating of equipment in higher schools, and the modernization of teaching methods. I wish to discuss the problems associated with improving the process of didactics and, primarily, with the justification of the need for modernizing the teaching methods.

The dynamic development of economic sciences is connected with a systematic increment of knowledge in this area, while the occurring changes are quantitative and qualitative in character. The economist must master an increasing volume of data in the course of his studies. Simultaneously, the need for evolving the ability of adapting the acquired knowledge to the practice of future vocational work is becoming much more acute. The need for evolving in the students the capacity of independent thinking and independent management of their own work is also becoming an essential purpose of studies. The knowledge and capacity gained in the course of studies must have enduring values and a wide enough range to become the basis for continuing education and vocational improvement of the graduates, in accordance with the system of permanent education.

These processes are accompanied by a popularization of economic studies which, on the one hand, increases the number of students for every scientific-didactic worker and, on the other hand, causes an influx to studies of mediocre candidates, in addition to the gifted young people.

The inseparable occurrence of the aforementioned phenomena makes the need for modernizing the teaching process of schools of university standing an increasingly urgent matter.

The traditional forms and methods of teaching in higher schools are becoming inadequate for the implementation of the broadened educational goals and the new organizational structure of higher schools corresponding to the increase in the number of students. These forms and methods assume a passive attitude of students in classes, while contemporaneous teaching requires active attitudes. In consequence, the traditionally conducted classes are frequently considered by the youth as uninteresting or outright boring.

The passivity of the listener is particularly noticeable in the lecture form and method of teaching. Therefore, the reforms of higher studies, carried out in recent years, tend to curtail gradually this form of class in favor of more intensive forms such as seminars, exercises or the conversational form. The number of hours allocated in study plans for lectures is being systematically reduced in favor of other forms of teaching mentioned earlier. The present ratio is one lecture to three other classes, while in the old study plans the ratio, depending on subject, was one to one, or two to one.

The old teaching plans included subjects whose knowledge was transmitted exclusively in the form of lectures. This related particularly to the general disciplines which supplemented the strictly economic subjects in the study program, such as, for example, history, law, philosophy and other. At present, seminars or conversation classes are also introduced in these subjects.

Lecture is a typical example of the serving method in teaching. The student is treated as a passive receiver of contents. The lecturer implements, on the whole, the teaching program which is a collection of encyclopedic knowledge of reality rather than a development plan of the intellect and personality. Lecture relies in teaching on a unidirectional transmission of information and -- at a lack of insight into the course of the learning and thinking process -- leads unavoidably

to gaps in learning and, frequently, to its mechanical acquisition without any understanding of content.

For these reasons, the tendencies toward changing the position of lectures in the over-all teaching process, from dominant to supplementary, should be recognized as correct.

There are also noticeable tendencies in schools of university standing toward a reduction of the number of exercise-type classes in favor of seminars and conversations. Exercises are limited more and more to the so-called quantitative subjects, such as mathematics, statistics, accounting and readerships.

Seminars are popularized mainly in the didactics of higher schools. This occurs in relation to the majority of subjects and to all years of studies. It is attempted, for example, already in the freshman year, to replace exercises in political economy by seminars. In the first year program, seminars in the so-called optional subjects are introduced as of the second semester. The mass and vigorous character of this phenomenon causes many didactic predicaments and is responsible for many misunderstandings among the teaching staff.

These misunderstandings concern primarily such problems as, for example, the definition of the substance of the seminar, its purpose and extent, as well as the method of conducting classes.

In the traditional teaching system of higher schools, seminars were conducted in the last years of studies and their purpose was to prepare the student for writing his master's thesis. Therefore, the method of reports and discussions was applied in the conduct of seminars. The purpose of the master's seminar was to teach the ability of independent elaboration of scientific-research problems and the skill of organizing a research workshop, e.g., collecting the bibliographical, statistical and recording documentation. The task of the seminar leader was to direct and watch over the preparation of the master's dissertation, taking into consideration all substantive and formal requirements. At the master's seminar, the students were also gaining the ability to conduct discussions and to formulate their own views, and were widening the range of their knowledge and their intellectual horizons.

In the economic higher schools, seminars are conducted at present in all years of studies, starting with the second semester. They are defined in a variety of ways and are usually denoted as course, subject or master's seminars. These seminars,

depending on the year of studies and the subject, vary rather essentially from each other in the area of teaching goals and the method of their conduct. It is necessary now to marshal the terminology of the seminars, their extent in specific years of studies and the applied teaching methods.

In order to meet these needs, the Main School of Planning and Statistics is organizing an international conference devoted to these problems, to be held in Teresin in September this year. The conference will be attended by the representatives of pedagogic chairs in economic higher schools from socialist countries and five teams of SGPiS /Main School of Planning and Statistics/ which will represent general theoretical subjects and specific economics. It is expected that the conference will provide answers to the following questions:

1. Which educational goals should be achieved by the various forms of seminars?
2. What are the mutual relations between the seminars in various years considering the over-all purpose of education?
3. What is the significance of the content of seminars for the development of various kinds of knowledge?
4. Are there any substantial differences in the methodology of seminars and other classes?
5. What requirements must be fulfilled if the seminars are to perform their role?

All educational centers feel that there is a lack of clarity in the area of the above problems. This concerns primarily the optional seminars, recently introduced into the new program of studies, which are in force from the first year of studies (second semester). The lack of tradition in conducting this kind of seminars, and especially of methodological instructions, causes many difficulties for the schools and the staff. It made also necessary an exchange of experiences among all economic centers. An attempt was made to standardize the scope of these seminars and the methods of their conduct during a conference of the representatives of economic higher schools in Blazejewek near Poznan, in September 1975. A general national seminar was organized under the sponsorship of the Central Methodological Institute for Economic Studies by order of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology. Discussion was concentrated mainly on problems of conducting in the first year seminars on the methodology and technique of intellectual (research) work.

Popularization of the seminar form requires a consistent application of further changes in the teaching process.

The traditional methods of conducting seminars, incompatible with their new purposes and scopes, are becoming inadequate. This indicates the need for new methods which should consider such goals of teaching as the capacity of independent thinking, ability to organize one's own learning and work, the application of acquired knowledge in vocational practice, and the ability to make decisions and to manage economic processes and sets of people. In order to acquire such abilities the student cannot be exclusively a passive receiver of knowledge. The methods applied in teaching should force the students to be active. Many such methods have already been elaborated and verified. They constitute a peculiar mutation of classic problem exercises. The thing is to adapt them to the teaching of economic subjects.

Problem teaching constitutes one of the principal means of activation in teaching because it leads to a development of thinking which is the foundation of practical action. Thinking in the categories of tasks and means is characteristic of contemporary science, and because of it, in addition to the description and systematization of phenomena, attempts are made to explain and resolve problems. Activation of students through problem teaching consists in their introduction into a researcher's situation. The value of problem teaching consists in training in the formulation and analysis of problem situations, making hypotheses, mental and practical verification of hypotheses, in conclusions and argumentation. Thus, the purpose of problem teaching is to shape up the thinking processes of the individual on the pattern of creative processes.

Classification of problems may have a theoretical and a practical significance for didactics. Specific problem relations require from the students not only mental operations, but may also affect the development of their thinking. With regard to the resolution of problems, we may also distinguish categories of thinking processes of a creative character, such as:

- 1) Discoveries which lead to the formulation of a scientific law (research);
- 2) inventions which lead to the construction of new installations (construing);
- 3) the way of the optimum action plan (decisions), the structure of which reflects an untypical situation and ensures a high probability of its resolution (creation of plans).

Each of the above thinking processes contains many problem content possibilities and operational systems aiming at a solution. The true degree of student participation in the implementation of the various procedural stages of problem solutions may vary and depends mainly on the difficulty of the topics, preparation of students, and the method of directing their work. Preparation of the ability to organize research processes requires intellectual training from the students. Problem presentation in lecture is an introduction. The number of operations independently carried out by the students is gradually increasing in other forms of classes. The ideal state in the organization of problem teaching is achieved when the students invent problems themselves and resolve them.

Studies conducted by Polish pedagogues -- W. Okon, K. Lech, T. Nowacki, Cz. Kupisiewicz and E. Fleming -- confirm the great effectiveness of problem teaching which not only stimulates an intensive intellectual activity, but combines the thinking process with action, at the same time shaping creative attitudes and evoking emotional activity.

The possibility of a many-sided activation of students is created by the so-called didactic games. Among the most frequently applied games are those which have the conventional name of situation method, staging method, accidents method, the method of group resolution of examples, as well as economic games.

The factor which motivates students to learn, in the use of didactic games, is the situation in the game and the pressure of colleagues who refuse to have their game spoiled through ignorance or the lack of needed skills. Many usually passive students actively participate in the class during a game. The didactic games help to develop the capacity of concentration. Students must devote much time to prepare themselves for the classes in which games are used, but are doing it willingly.

Natural competition which deepens the capacity of social collaboration is peculiar to didactic games. Closely defined criteria of winning provide an objective and clear to all basis for evaluating the behavior of a student in the course of a game, and competition between teams stimulates the students to collaboration within their own team.

The knowledge of facto-graphic material is the initial condition for participating in the game, but does not ensure success as was customary in traditional teaching. Success here requires the mastery of principles, concepts and structures.

Participation in game procedures may play an important role in the intensification of thinking, the development of system thinking, and in the consideration of several parallel cause and effect chains, which occurs often in real social situations.

These methods, in contradistinction to traditional teaching, facilitate also the individualization of the students' work. For they usually assure several levels of participation, which differ in requirements. The effect of didactic games is that the student acts in complex conditions most closely approaching reality. They provide an opportunity for developing the capacity of decision making. It is also noticeable that success in games influences positively the self-evaluation of students.

The popularization and introduction of active methods in the teaching of economic subjects encounters many difficulties. The traditional methods of teaching in economic sciences are deeply rooted and enjoy the preference of the scientific-teaching staff, particularly the older professors. It is a fact that the application of active methods in teaching general theoretical disciplines is limited by the theoretical character of the subjects and requires a selective assortment of topics which may be taught this way.

The SGPiS has made successful attempts to modernize the teaching process in the area of both general subjects and specific economics. Two methodological conferences of political economy and sectorial economics chairs were organized in 1974 and 1975. The purpose of both was not only a mutual exchange of methodological experiences in conducting classes, but also an object presentation of the use of the aforementioned didactic games in the teaching of political economy and sectorial economics. Both conferences have affirmed the feasibility and usefulness of the application of activating methods in teaching economic subjects. The conference materials in the form of scenarios and models of classes were published by COMSE [Central Methodological Institute of Economic Schools].¹

1. Studia i Materialy, Poznan 1975, Vol 21, "Conference of Political Economy Chairs," and Studia i Materialy, Poznan 1976, Vol 24, "Conference of Sectorial Economics Chairs."

Simultaneously with the endeavors to popularize the activating methods the SGPiS introduced studies of the effectiveness of these methods as compared with traditional education. Pilot research conducted in relation to the accidents method, on the example of the labor economics subject, has confirmed in all the obtained parameters the superiority of the applied activating method. This concerned both the calculable indicators of teaching effectiveness, measured by the increment of knowledge and its endurance, and the incalculable indicators, i.e., the efficiency of thinking and the capability of utilizing the acquired knowledge.

Among the virtues of the activating methods is the possibility of utilizing audiovisual techniques in the teaching process, to a much wider extent than in the traditional teaching system. It is generally known that they facilitate cognition, contribute to higher durability of knowledge, influence the emotional sphere of students (the motivating function), and facilitate the differentiation of stimuli (the appraising function). The economic higher schools have already at their disposal ample resources of didactic means. It can be stated objectively that these means are not everywhere and always adequately utilized. This is also the result of the fact that their suitability at the use of traditional teaching methods is relatively small. They can be fully utilized only when the activating methods are applied.

One of the essential factors hindering the application of active methods is the insufficient pedagogic preparation of the teaching staff. The need for pedagogic training of higher school teachers was signalized many times. Some centers of university studies introduced on their own the obligation of pedagogic qualifications, on which the advance from trainee to assistant, and from assistant to adjunct depends (the Poznan, Lodz and Wroclaw centers). In the SGPiS this demand was presented repeatedly to the school administration.

The application of modern teaching methods and the utilization of didactic means in teaching require a knowledge of pedagogy, psychology, and general and detailed methodology. The knowledge in these areas must be systematically updated and perfected. The scientific-teaching workers must be currently acquainted with the most recent achievements in this field.

It becomes necessary to consider the pedagogic improvement of scientific workers, employed in higher schools, on the same level as substantial improvement. Pedagogic achievements

and successes should be taken into account in evaluating the suitability of young workers to scholastic activities. No one should be indifferent to the manner in which knowledge is transmitted to students because the method of its transmittal largely determines the level of graduates of higher schools.

For these reasons we should accept with appreciation the initiative of the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Technology which has recommended that the program for improving political economy teachers in schools of university standing should also consider the need for improving the teaching methods. Every sixth school day should be devoted to these matters.

The authors of the didactic day program have proposed that it should be utilized for acquainting the pedagogic workers of political economy chairs with the newest achievements in the conduct of classes. A review has been proposed of the currently applied activating methods in teaching, primarily of the didactic games. The practical possibility and purposefulness of their application in teaching would be demonstrated on examples of selected political economy topics. The methodological day classes are to be conducted in a modern way that takes into account the maximum activation of all participants in education. To achieve this goal, the classes should be conducted by a team of experts in the fields of pedagogy, psychology and political economy.

Another equally essential factor which hampers the generalization of activating methods in higher schools, in addition to the inadequate preparation of the teaching personnel, is the lack of appropriate methodological elaborations in the form of scenarios, models and schemes of games. The elaboration of such materials is extremely difficult. It requires much work and an excellent substantial knowledge of the subject, as well as proper methodological preparation. But they are very valuable because of their possibly multiple use.

The methodological monographs written up to now were usually the result of personal interests of the scientific workers. The popularization of activating methods will engender the demand for new and gradually improving monographs. It is becoming necessary to approach their preparation in the same manner as the writing of traditional instructional aids, for example scripts, textbooks and others. Works on the methodology of teaching and achievements in this area should be treated on the same level as the research achievements of educational

workers and be added to their record. They should be discussed at scientific meetings of the chairs. This will ensure the proper level and high quality of methodological materials.

In conclusion of these considerations it should be stressed that the distinguishing characteristic of the traditional teaching system was its relative stability, particularly in the area of contents and methods, while dynamics and continuous adaptation to new conditions are required of the contemporary didactic system. It becomes necessary to adapt the remaining elements of the didactic system to the modernized teaching methods, which concerns particularly the content of education, organization of the study course, equipment of the material base of higher schools and the assurance of adequate qualifications of higher school teachers. All these conditions must be fulfilled if we wish to obtain good quantitative and qualitative results in educating highly qualified personnel.²

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2. I have utilized in this article parts of the paper prepared by a team of the SGPiS Pedagogic Department for the conference of pedagogic chairs of higher economic schools of socialist countries, held in Budapest, in August 1975.

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